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Thoreau's "Morning Star"

Victor Carl Friesen

"The sun is but a morning star."[1]

How was it that Thoreau chose these as his final words for *Walden*? Shanley tells us that they did not appear before the sixth revision of the manuscript, probably completed in 1854, the year of the book's publication.[2] Thus they can hardly be considered Thoreau's long-thought-of terminus for *Walden*, his castle in the air under which he had to put a foundation (*Walden*, 324)—there was but a single revision left. Still, the phrase "morning star" was one he could well have been familiar with for many years and from several sources.

As a Harvard student, Thoreau read "everything down to Milton" in English literature,[3] indeed a "goodly portion" of Chalmers's *Works of the English Poets*.[4] He might then have seen Restoration poet John Denham's 1667 reference to Chaucer as "the morning star." It is found in the first line of a fairly well-known poem, "Mr. Abrahem Cowley's Death, and Burial Amongst the Ancient Poets."[5] Later studies could have revealed that both Wordsworth, in 1822, and Tennyson, in 1832, used the same image in describing Chaucer. In "Ecclesiastical Sonnets," Part II, No. 31, Wordsworth refers to "genuine morning Star"[6]; and in the opening lines of "A Dream of Fair Women," Tennyson writes of the "morning star of song."[7]

That Thoreau would have noted the phrase "morning star" had he come across it, seems likely because of his affinity for Chaucer. He devoted several pages of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, 1849, to a discussion of this favorite poet who—like Homer, he says—is "morning reading." Chaucer's work, again like that of the Greek poet, is "of the lark and morning dews" so that in reading it "we rise ... into an unchangeable morning light, in which we have only to live right on and breathe the ambrosial air" (*Week*, 368-369). Thoreau's praise is clearly in keeping with the notion of Chaucer's being a morning star.

A source closer to home for this image was Thoreau's fellow townsman, Emerson. Harding points out the interesting parallel[8] to be found in a sentence from Emerson's "Politics" (*Essays: Second Series*): "We think our civilization near its meridian, but we are yet only at the cock-crowing and the morning star."[9] Although published in 1844, the essay was derived from earlier lecture material, and Thoreau could easily have heard Emerson discuss this very issue. Certainly, the morning-star image is as much in accord with Thoreau's conclusion of *Walden* as the more obvious parallel of cockcrowing is to the epigraph about chanticleer at the start of the book. *Walden*, too, like Chaucer's writing, is a morning work—to awaken people to a dawning world.

The original source of the morning-star image, of course, is the Bible, and there can be no doubt that Thoreau was knowledgeable of this. Harding says that "perhaps more than any other English work, the King James Bible exerted a profound influence on Thoreau's style," and adds—"his familiarity with the King James Bible is obvious on almost every page he wrote."[10] Thoreau himself writes specifically about the New Testament in *A Week* in these words: "an invaluable book"; "it furnishes the most pregnant and practical texts" (*Week*, 71, 137).

Thoreau made good use of the Scriptures in writing his next book, for Burns has noted that there are at least fifty extracts from, or references to, the Bible in *Walden*.[11] Burns cites the source of the morning-star image as Revelation 2:28[12]—"And I will give him the morning star" (Christ has stated just five verses previously that He "will give unto every one of you according to your works"). That Thoreau knew this passage is indicated by his having alluded to the next (and final) verse of the chapter—"He that hath an ear, let him hear ..."—in his journal (*Journal 3*, 261). Apparently, Thoreau liked to allude to the Book of Revelation—Burns found eight references to it in his writings.[13]

There are other Biblical passages that can be cited as a source. From the Old Testament, Thoreau had already looked to God's answer to Job out of a whirlwind for his own description of the horse-locomotive in the "Sounds" chapter of *Walden* (Job 39:19-25; *Walden*, 116). In the Lord's same enunciation is this passage: "who

laid the corner stone thereof [that is, of the earth]; / When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job, 38:6-7). Pictured is creation, a newness at one with Thoreau's preoccupation in *Walden* with the earth's re-creation through the cycle of the seasons, culminating in springtime—putting forth a "green blade to eternity" and achieving the "innocence of infancy" (*Walden*, 311, 314). "The coming in of spring is like creation of Cosmos out of Chaos," Thoreau writes in the penultimate chapter, "and the realization of the Golden Age" (*Walden*, 313). It is a time for "glees" and "carols" (*Walden*, 310), and, ultimately, in "Conclusion," for morning stars.

From the New Testament, Thoreau may also have been influenced by a passage from the Epistles of Peter. These he had referred to earlier in the first chapter of *Walden* (with a statement about charity hiding a multitude of sins—1 Peter 4:8; *Walden*, 77). The new passage reads: "that ye take heed ... until the day dawn, and the day star arise" (2 Peter 1:19). Peter is speaking of God's voice heard on the holy mount, providing assurance of His promises "that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Thoreau made this journal entry before *Walden* was published: "If it is possible that we be addressed, it behooves us to be attentive. If ... I may detect some trace of the Ineffable, then will it not be worth the while to watch? Watch and pray without ceasing, but not necessarily in sadness. Be of good cheer." He goes on to say that like some watchman in an ancient city, he will *gladly* watch a whole year from the city's walls if he can feel himself "elevated for an instant upon Pisgah"[14]—that is, if he can partake of divinity upon his holy mountain.[15] How aptly do the final three sentences of *Walden* follow these journal statements—and echo the words of Peter: "Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star" (*Walden*, 333).

Finally, there is a pertinent second reference in Revelation, coming in the last chapter, when Christ speaks of Himself as "the bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16). That this image occurs twice in this book of the Bible—at the beginning, as we have already seen, and at the end—has some similarity to Thoreau's two morning references (chanticleer and day star), one at the outset, the other at the close of *Walden*. In both books the cycle is complete—the world, a better one, come round again; an overwhelming timelessness connoted. Revelation speaks of "Alpha and Omega ... which is, and which was, and which is to come." It speaks of "he that liveth and was dead; and behold ... alive for evermore" and of "a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away" (Revelation 1:8, 1:18, 21:1). *Walden* speaks of the pond which "was dead and is alive again.... and lo' ... already calm and full of hope." It speaks of the artist of the city of Kouroo creating a perfect work in which time does not enter: "His singleness of purpose and resolution, and his elevated piety, endowed him, without his knowledge, with perennial youth." He, in effect, creates "a world of full and fair proportions; in which, though the old cities and dynasties had passed away, fairer and more glorious ones had taken their places" (*Walden*, 311-12, 326-27).

While an extended comparison between Revelation and *Walden* should not be made—Thoreau was *not* re-writing Revelation—the course of the two books is, in very general terms, a prolonged scrutiny of things and then an exultant conclusion. By using Biblical allusions, Thoreau was not only giving authority to his own views but casting them with mythical signifigance. Such references bespoke the *spiritual* awakening that he hoped his chanticleer call would bring forth—his call to arise to the dawning day, to slough off materialistic wants, and to live richly in nature's bright presence.

Thoreau's reading, then, from various sources, minor or otherwise, influenced his writing of the concluding sentences of *Walden*. However much use he made of them—Denham, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Emerson, or Job, Peter, and Revelation—he was ever the eclecticist, using the references to emphasize his ongoing theme that life is process, that ends are found in the means. There is *always* more day to dawn was his optimistic message. The sun is but a morning star.

Notes

[1] *Walden*, ed. J. Lyndon Shanley [*The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*] (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1971), p. 333. Other page references to this Princeton edition will appear parenthetically in the text and apply to these volumes: *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, ed. Carl F. Hovde and Textual Center Staff, William L. Howarth, and Elizabeth Hall Witherell (1980); and *Journal, Volume 3: 1848-1851*, ed. Robert Sattelmeyer, Mark R. Patterson, and William Rossi (1990).

[2] J. Lyndon Shanley, *The Making of Walden* (Chicago: U Chicago P, 1957), pp. 73, 32.

[3] Robert D. Richardson Jr., *Henry Thoreau, A Life of the Mind* (Berkeley: U California P, 1986), p. 111.

[4] Walter Harding, *The Days of Henry Thoreau* (New York: Knopf, 1965), p. 38.

[5] Alexander Chalmers, ed., *The Works of the English Poets, from Chaucer to Cowper*, 21 vols. (London: J. Johnson and others, 1810), VII:247. See also *The Poetical Works of Sir John Denham*, ed. Theodore Howard Banks, Jr.

(New Haven: Yale UP, 1928), p. 149.

[6] *The Poetical Works of William Wordsworth*, ed. E. de Selincourt and Helen Darbishire, 5 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1940-1949), III:376.

[7] *The Poems of Tennyson*, ed. Christopher Wicks, 3 vols. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: U California P, 1987), I:481.

[8] Henry D. Thoreau, *The Variorum Walden*, ed. Walter Harding (New York: Twayne, 1962), p. 319, n. 50.

[9] *The Selected Writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, ed. Brooks Atkinson (New York: Modern Library, 1950), p. 432.

[10] Walter Harding, *A Thoreau Handbook* (New York: New York UP, 1961), p. 106.

[11] John Robert Burns, *Thoreau's Use of the Bible* [Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, University of Notre Dame, 1966] (Ann Arbor: Michigan Microfilms, Inc., 1967), p. 3.

[12] Burns, *Thoreau's Use of the Bible*, p. 175.

[13] Burns, *Thoreau's Use of the Bible*, unpaged tables.

[14] *The Writings of Henry David Thoreau*, 20 vols. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1906), VIII:471.

[15] For a full discussion of Thoreau and mystic insight, see Chapter 7, "Hearing Beyond the Range of Sound," in my study, *The Spirit of the Huckleberry* (Edmonton: U Alberta P, 1984), pp. 106-122.

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

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Schofield, Edmund A., and Robert C. Baron, eds. *Thoreau's World and Ours: A Natural Legacy.* Golden, Colo.: North American Press, 1993. 405pp. $26.95 This is the account of the 1991 Thoreau Jubilee annual meeting of the Thoreau Society. It has been a long time coming, but it is decidedly worth the wait! Included are the texts of forty of the papers read at those meetings. They range from an "Ecology of Walden Woods" to "Thoreau, Tolstoi and Civil Disobedience," from "Highlights of the Last Fifty Years of Thoreau Criticism" to "Thoreau Lives: An Afterword from Moscow." No matter what his or her approach to Thoreau, I cannot imagine any Thoreauvian who will not find dozens of exciting and stimulating articles to read herein. It is perhaps the most comprehensive Thoreau book I have ever seen. And with its publication I hope that Edmund Schofield will receive the wide recognition he so richly deserves for the tremendous efforts he virtually single-handedly put into arranging and organizing the Thoreau Jubilee and producing this memorable book.

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———. *Faith in a Seed: The Dispersion of Seeds and Other Late Natural History Writings.* Edited by Bradley P. Dean. Foreword by Gary Paul Nabhan. Introduction by Robert D. Richardson, Jr. Illustrations by Abigail Rorer. Washington: Shearwater Books, Island Press, 1993. 284pp. $25. Here is a major event in Thoreau's publishing history. A century and a quarter after his death a new book is published by him. It is what he was working on in the last few years before his death. While he was unable to finish it and left it in rough-draft form, under Dean's scrupulous editing it makes a highly readable book, and there are wonderful sentences and paragraphs that are vintage Thoreau. Inspired in part at least by his reading of Darwin's *Origin of Species,* it is a study of how the seeds of grasses, weeds, flowers, shrubs, and trees get spread around Concord. It gives us a great opportunity to see Thoreau's mind at work. We can almost see the wheels in his head going around as he deletes false theories and develops new ones, following one lead after another. I only wish modern scientific reports could be written with this beauty. How did a manuscript like this remain unpublished all these years? Scholars have known about it for many years, but because it was mixed in with other notes, they thought it was much more fragmentary than it actually was. The late Leo Stoller was probably the first to recognize its worth, but his tragic early death brought to an abrupt end his editorial work. Other scholars have studied it, but Dean was the first to work it through to completion, and we are much indebted to him for that. He has edited it beautifully with textual accuracy and helpful notes. He includes also three fragmentary manuscripts on related subjects. The book is printed beautifully, and the delightful little marginal drawings add much to the joy of the book.

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1993; *Orlando Sentinel*, 18 March 1993; *Middlesex News* [Concord, Mass.], 31 March 1993; *Washington Post*, 4 April 1993; *Chicago Sun Times*, 4 April 1993; *Raleigh* [N.C.] *News & Observer*, 18 April 1993; *Los Angeles Times*, 18 April 1993; *New York Post*, 19 April 1993; *Boston Globe*, 22 April 1993; *Valley News* [White River Junction, Vt.], 23 April 1993; *Bergen Record* [Hackensack, N.J.], 25 April 1993; *Beacon Journal* [Akron, Ohio], 25 April 1993; *The State* [Columbia, S.C.], 25 April 1993; *Kansas City Star*, 25 April 1993; *Newsweek*, 27 April 1993; *Newsday*, 27 April 1993; *Economist*, 1 May 1993; *Pieces of Eight* [East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C.], 1 May 1993; *USA Today*, 7 May 1993; *Time Magazine*, 10 May 1993; *Daily Reflector* [Greenville, N.C.], 11 May 1993; *Library Journal*, 15 May 1993; *New York Times*, 23 May 1993; *New Criterion*, June 1993; *Athenaeum Items* [Boston Athenaeum], June 1993; *Nation*, 7 June 1993.

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We are indebted to the following for information sent in for this bulletin: J. Austin, J. Burger, R. Borst, A. Bakratcheva, M. Britt, M. Brooks, D. Brown, J. Butkis, D. Barto, W. Cummings, D. Capra, B. Dean, J. Dawson, M. Detterline, R. Dillman, J. Deutsch, H. Deese, M. Fausold, M. Finley, F. Gerber, R. Galvin, P. Huber, J. Hussey, E. Hoagland, C. Jervis, E. Jacobson, E. Johnson, K. Kasegawa, B. Kirtchberg, J. Moldenhauer, W. Mott, A. McGrath, A. Meredith, M. Negus, R. O'Connor, R. Peterson, J. Porter, L. Rines, G. Ryan, R. Rothwell, E. Schofield, H. Siegelaub, M. Shanks, R. Thompson, R. Winslow, E. Witherell, J. Welch, and E. Zeitlin. Please keep Walter Harding (19 Oak Street, Geneseo, NY 14454) informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.

1993 Annual Meeting

Unlike previous years, the 1993 annual meeting began on Thursday afternoon, when members began arriving at the Concord Academy for lodging, a reception, and a remarkably good dinner. Breakfast the next morning was also excellent—the conversation as well as the food.

The Board of Directors met in an air-conditioned room at the Academy's Math & Arts Center on Friday at 12:30 p.m. for its annual meeting.

At the First Parish Church on Saturday, 10 July, at 9:53 a.m., president Joel Myerson called the annual business meeting of the Society to order. Bradley P. Dean, secretary, moved that the minutes of last year's annual meeting be approved as printed in the summer 1992 bulletin. The assembled members approved the motion. Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer, delivered a report on the Society's finances. (A full statement of our financial condition will appear in the next bulletin).

Barbara Wojtusik, chair of the Nominating Committee (Ann Claveaux and Jonella Corpus, members), offered the following slate of officers: Joel Myerson, president and president-elect; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary; Malcolm Ferguson and Ron Pesha, co-chairs of the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting; Elizabeth Witherell and Robert Sattelmeyer, members of the Board of Directors—for one-year terms—and Dan Shealy and Robert Galvin, members of the Board of Directors for four-year terms. The slate as offered was unanimously approved by the members present for the meeting. (A full list of the Society's officers and committee chairs, with their addresses, will appear in the next bulletin.)

Robert Galvin, chair of the By-Laws Review Committee (Eric Parkman Smith and Sidney Wanzer, members), then took the podium and gave a brief report on the activities of his committee. He pointed out that the revised by-laws were approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting the preceding day and would be offered to the membership during the 1994 annual meeting for final approval. (The proposed new by-laws will be printed in full in the winter

1993 bulletin. All Society members will receive a proxy ballot with the spring 1994 bulletin. Members can use the ballot for voting on the proposed by-laws *in absentia*. Of course, members present at the 1994 annual meeting will be able to vote on the by-laws during the meeting. According to our current by-laws, a two-thirds vote of the members present or by proxy is required for the new by-laws to become effective.)

Myerson thanked Galvin, Smith, and Wanzer for all the hard work and time they put into their task during the past year. Myerson also thanked all those who contributed their time and efforts to making the annual meeting so interesting and successful, especially Malcolm Ferguson, Peggy Brace, Marian Wheeler, Debra K. Dean, Brad Dean, and David Dean.

Elizabeth Witherell, editor-in-chief of the Princeton University Press edition of *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*, announced the project's progress on the next volumes that are scheduled to be published: *Journal 5*, *Journal 6*, *Excursions*, and *Correspondence*.

Myerson expressed the condolences of the Society at the deaths this past year of H. H. Uhlig, Carl Bode, and Patience Macpherson—all three of whom were active in the Society and will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, Myerson presented to our Founding Secretary, Walter Harding, the American Literature Association's (ALA) Award for Distinguished Service. This award was given in recognition of Harding's fifty years of service to the Thoreau Society. (The ALA, of which the Thoreau Society is a founding member, is an organization composed of American authors societies and interested individuals.) As Harding accepted the plaque for the award, the members further honored him with a rousing and sustained standing ovation.

After briefly summarizing the program for the overall annual meeting, Myerson introduced Anne McGrath, our Lyceum curator, who urged the members to stop by the Lyceum that afternoon for the scheduled book-signing party.

Finally, Myerson introduced the keynote speaker, Society member Robert D. Richardson, Jr., author of *Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind* and a soon-to-be-published intellectual biography of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Richardson gave an excellent talk on the Thoreau-Emerson friendship, a slightly revised version of which appears as the lead article in the current *Concord Saunterer*. The business meeting adjourned just after 11 a.m. and members were able to lounge around the First Parish until lunch, which was served in the Vestry at noon.

Immediately after the buffet-style lunch, which the members made clear they heartily enjoyed (a consequence, apparently, of using a different caterer than we had used in previous years), Thomas Blanding hosted the annual Thoreau Quiz. The following are a few of the questions asked: What did Thoreau say was 3,000 miles closer to hell? Where did Thoreau put his plants? Where was the Symmes Hole mentioned in *Walden*? Are any of the white pines that Thoreau planted near his Walden house site still there? Why didn't Thoreau attend Capt. John Brown's funeral? What did Thoreau's mother think of Frank Sanborn? Did all Thoreau pencils have rectangular or squarish leads? Where was Sam Staples buried? In *Walden*, what did the wild cat become? Where were John, Jr., and Helen Thoreau born? How many houses in Concord did Thoreau live in? Blanding noted at the close that this was the first Quiz in quite a while that neither of the two most-asked questions had come up. Those two questions are: Was Thoreau gay? and What is the difference between a blueberry and a huckleberry?

By almost all accounts, the experiment of using the Concord Academy was successful. Many members this year took advantage of the lodging and dining facilities of the Academy, which were available from Thursday afternoon to Monday morning, and practically all of those members pointed out how pleasant it was to be able to sit or lounge around a large facility and leisurely talk with other members. Many members turned out for and enjoyed the three Saturday afternoon sessions on *Walden*, Thoreau's journal, and Emerson's women (moderated by Elizabeth Witherell, Robert Sattelmeyer, and Ron Bosco, respectively); also well attended and enjoyable were Donald Linebaugh's Friday evening presentation about Rollin Robbins and Gordon Boudreau's Saturday evening talk about Thoreau and the Elder Hostel Program. And, of course, many members took advantage of the annual meeting to purchase books at the Lyceum and have the books signed by the authors present at the Lyceum's book signing party on Saturday after the sessions. On Sunday, Robert Madison led several members on two canoe excursions on the Sudbury River, with the longer of the excursions featuring a stop at beautiful Fair Haven Bay for a mid-day picnic. Many members attended a day-long symposium on Sunday at Fruitlands.

Ron Pesha monitored the activities at the Academy and elsewhere, and he spoke with many members to get their opinions about this year's annual meeting. He will try to compile an informal report on his findings and a sort of projection of plans for next year's meeting. We

hope to include that report in an upcoming bulletin.

Notes & Queries

For those of you who make your vacation plans early, the 1994 Thoreau Society Annual meeting will take place in Concord, Massachusetts, from Thursday, 7 July, to Monday, 11 July, with the annual business meeting taking place on Saturday, 9 July. Our president, Joel Myerson, and the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting (Malcolm Ferguson and Ron Pesha, co-chairs) have already begun planning the meeting. Robert Gross, long-time Society member and well-regarded author of *The Minutemen and Their World*, has accepted an invitation to deliver the keynote address.

We regret that because of space limitations, we have not been able to print Anne McGrath's "Curator's Corner" in this bulletin. It will appear as usual in the next bulletin.

On the occasion of our annual meeting, the Thoreau Foundation of Bangalore, India, which was founded in 1989 and which maintainsboth lectures and a newsletter on Thoreau, sent greetings to us and announced that it would celebrate Thoreau's birthday this year with an exhibition and a lecture on Thoreau and his contemporaries. For information on the Thoreau Foundation, write to R. Viswamurthy, 63 HMT Layout, R. Tagore Nagar, Bangalore 580 032 India.

The Concord Saunterer, one of the Society's two publications, has resumed annual publication after an absence of several years. Ronald Hoag, the new editor, seeks biographical, historical, textual, bibliographical, and interpretive articles relating to Henry Thoreau and his associates, Concord, and Transcendentalism. Submissions of all lengths are invited; shorter pieces not selected for the *Saunterer* will be considered for inclusion in the bulletin. Both of the Society's MLA-indexed publications have a circulation of approximately 1,500 and use *Chicago Manual of Style* format conventions. Send two copies of articles and SASE to The Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, U.S.A. Notification of Editorial Board decisions within three months.

A surprising early reference to Thoreau by Bret Harte in the *Californian* for 4 November 1865: "We were no longer pilgrims to the celestial city; no longer disciples of Thoreau in rapt symphony with nature, but the proprietors of a fast horse, with porter and whisky in the perspective."

The Society is grateful to Dr. Edmund A. Schofield for his generous gift of $4,000 to help reduce the deficit incurred by the 1991 Jubilee celebration, to Professor Frederick Wagner for his generous gift of $1,000, which helped pay for reinstituting the *Concord Saunterer*, and to Jinzaburo Nyui of Sapporo, Japan, for his generous gift of $500.

American Book Prices Current for 1992 lists the following prices for first editions of Thoreau: *Autumn*, $220; *Cape Cod*, $80, $175; *Letters to Various Persons*, $100; *Maine Woods*, $425, $450; *Walden*, $600, $1,100, $1,300, $4,750, $5,000; *Week*, $1,600, $3,200; Riverside Edition, $350; Manuscript Edition, $4,600; and Thoreau's letter of 30 June 1858 to Ricketson, $9,000. *Bookman's Price Index* lists the following prices for Thoreau first editions: *Civil Disobedience* (Godine), $100, $200; *Excursions*, $850; *Letters to Various Persons*, $350; *Maine Woods*, $350; *Summer*, $150; *Walden*, $4,500; *Walden* (Ruzicka), $175; *Winter*, $200, $300; Riverside Edition, $225; Manuscript Edition, $4,200. Thomas Goldwasser Books, San Francisco, is offering a presentation copy of *Maine Woods* autographed from Sophia Thoreau to her cousin Charles H. Dunbar, $3,500.

A correspondent in the *Riverdale* [N.Y.] *Press* for 14 and 28 January 1993 suggests that both J. P. Morgan and Thoreau must feel uneasy with the Morgan Library being a major repository of Thoreau manuscripts.

A cartoon in a recent issue of the Johns Hopkins Alumni Magazine labeled "Thoreau, doing research on Chapter 7" shows Henry hoeing in his beanfield.

Abigail Rorer, the illustrator for Thoreau's new book, *Faith in a Seed*, has issued one hundred hand-engraved wood imprints of her drawing of Thoreau based on the Dunshee ambrotype. The imprints can be purchased for $70 each ($20 of which will be donated by Rorer to the Society) and can be ordered from the Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742.

Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission, writes in the July 1993 number of the Commission's maagazine, "Last month I spent some time in Austin with Don Henley, one of our country's most talented and successful entertainers. It's our good fortune that Henley also is one of American's most influential conservationists and is responsible, among other things, for the successful campaign to save from destruction Walden Pond, site of Henry David Thoreau's

classic essay 'Meditations.'"

The Thoreau Society session at next year's American Literature Association convention in San Diego (2-5 June 1994) will be a panel discussion, moderated by Thoreau Society secretary Bradley P. Dean, on Thoreau's late natural history projects. Panelists will include Ronald W. Hoag, Joseph J. Moldenhauer, Robert Sattelmeyer, and Elizabeth Witherell.

Those interested in supporting the Walden Woods Project can become members by sending $25 (tax deductible) to 18 Tremont Street, Suite 522, Boston, MA 02108. Membership includes a free T-shirt (specify size) and a subscription to the Project's semiannual newsletter, *The Forest Walker*.

The Walden Woods Project is sponsoring a fund-raising concert featuring recording artists Don Henley, Elton John, Sting, Aerosmith, and Melissa Etheridge at the 52,000-seat Foxborough Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on Labor Day, Monday, 6 September 1993. For more information on the concert, call the Walden Woods Project toll free at 1 (800) 554-3569.

According to the Summer 1993 Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance (TCCA) newsletter, the Ellis L. Phillips Foundation of Boston recently awarded a $25,000 planning grant to cultural and environmental organizations in Concord, and designated TCCA as fiscal agent for the grant, "which will be administered as 'The Concord Project' by a steering committee made up of TCCA Board members and representatives of several other Concord institutions." For information about TCCA, write to 191 Sudbury Road, Concord, MA 01742-3423, or call 1 (508) 369-3565.

The Emily Dickinson International Society (Vivian R. Pollack, president, English Department GN-30, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195) was incorporated in 1988 and currently has about 400 members from 19 countries. EDIS, which is open to everyone with an interest in Dickinson, sponsors occasional conferences and annual meetings, and publishes the semiannual *EDIS Bulletin* and the *Emily Dickinson Journal*. Annual membership fees of $35 (for both publications) or $15 (*Bulletin* only) should be sent to Martha Nell Smith, EDIS Treasurer, Department of English, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Further information can be obtained from Eleanor Heginbotham, 8502 Wilkesboro Lane, Potomac, MD 20854.

Walter Harding (19 Oak Street, Geneseo, NY 14454) is revising his *Variorum Walden* and would like to hear from members who can provide information on the following quotations or allusions from *Walden* (page references to first edition): "How god-like, how immortal" (10), "Where a goddess might trail her garments" (92; Harding has heard that this is from the *Iliad* but has been unable to locate it there), "The Vedas say, 'All intelligences awake with the morning'" (97), "How can you expect the birds to sing when their groves are cut down?" (208), "Yes, we have done great deeds, and sung divine songs, which shall never dies" (354).

The Concord Museum has changed its admission prices: $6 adults, $5 seniors (over 62 years), $3 students (valid ID required), $3 children, $12 family, members free, WGBH members two-for-one. The Museum features period rooms and galleries that provide an introduction to Concord's history from Native American habitation and European settlement through the 1775 battle at the North Bridge to the transcendentalist era. On exhibit are the lantern that signaled Paul Revere's famous ride, Emerson's entire study as arranged at his death in 1882, and the largest collection of Thoreau's possessions in the world. In addition to these permanent exhibits, the Museum features several temporary ones. For more information, write the Museum at 200 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742, or call 1 (508) 369-9763.

The editors of *Diarist's Journal* will devote their fall 1993 issue "to the man [they] regard as the greatest American journal-keeper—Henry David Thoreau."

Laraine Fergenson reports "that the bust of Thoreau ... located at the Bronx Community College campus of the City University of New York has been reburnished. The uneven green patina on Thoreau's face has been removed, and the bust is now a more uniform shade."

The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal gathering of students and admirers of Henry David Thoreau. Joel Myerson, president; Eric Parkman Smith, treasurer; Bradley P. Dean, secretary. Dues: $20; students $10; family $35; benefactor $100; life $500. The Society maintains an educational and retail center, the Thoreau Lyceum, at 156 Belknap Street, Concord, MA 01742, tel: (508) 369-5912; and an administrative center in the Department of English at East Carolina University. Address communications to the secretary at the Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, tel: (919) 355-0620, fax: (919) 757-4263.